



DETROIT BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

Minutes of the Board of Police Commissioners Meeting Thursday, July 10, 2008

The meeting of the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners was held on Thursday, July 10, 2008, 6:30 p.m. at the Dexter Elmhurst Community Center, 11825 Dexter in Detroit, Michigan.

ATTENDANCE

Board Members Present

Erminia Ramirez (**ABS**)
Jim Holley
Ronald L. Griffin
Mohamed Okdie (**ABS**)
Willie Hampton

Department Personnel Present

AC Robert Dunlap
AC Ralph Godbee
DC Chester Logan
DC Claudia Barden-Jackson
DC Leo Powers
DC Jamie Fields
DC Daniel O'Neill
DC Joyce Motley
DC Marshall Lyons
DC Shereece Fleming-Freeman
2nd DC John Clark
2nd DC Angela O-Bey-Young
Or. Debra Fair
Cmdr. Troy Quinn
Cmdr. Lewis Bray
Cmdr. Dwayne Love
Cmdr. Linda Vertin-Peltier
Cmdr. Joseph Wihite
Lt. Donna Jarvis
Lt. Dale Greenleaf
P.O. Dwight Featherstone
P.O. Sophia Nelms
P.O. Shannon Richardson
P.O. Elaine Frinkley

P.O. Melvin Chuney
Director Deborah Robinson

Board Staff Present

Dante' L. Goss, Executive Director
Lawana Ducker, Personnel Director
Arnold Sheard, Chief Investigator
Celia Banks-Washington, Attorney/Supervising Inv.
Leslie J. Griffin, Community Affairs Coordinator
P.O. Kent Cooper

OTHERS PRESENT

Ron Scott
Sandra Hines
LaWanda Hail-Ruffin
Ronnie Smith
Agent Cynthia Johnson
Mr. Leroy

Tawanna Morris
Suzie Erkhart
R. Ervin
Alvin Stokes
Francis Moss

RECORDERS

Jerome Adams
Robert Brown

1. CALL TO ORDER

Comm. Hampton called the meeting of the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners to order at 6:43 p.m.

He welcomed the citizens to the Dexter/Elmhurst Community Center and thanked them for coming. He acknowledged the presence of the Staff. Commissioner Hampton then thanked Center Director Michael Searcy for allowing the Commissioners to use the facility. He asked Director Searcy to have words.

Michael Searcy welcomed the citizens to the community center. He also welcomed the Commissioners and stated that the center is always open to the community.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- **Thursday, July 10, 2008**

MOTION: Comm. **Holley** made the motion to approve the Agenda.

SECOND: Comm. **Griffin** seconded the motion.

VOTE: All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **Thursday, June 26, 2008**

MOTION: Comm. **Holley** made the motion to approve the Minutes.

SECOND: Comm. **Griffin** seconded the motion.

VOTE: All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

- **Thursday, July 3, 2008**

MOTION: Comm. **Holley** made the motion to approve the Minutes.

SECOND: Comm. **Griffin** seconded the motion.

VOTE: All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

4. BOPC OFFICER'S REPORT

1. CHAIRPERSON

2. SECRETARY'S REPORT

CITIZEN COMPLAINTS RECEIVED

2008 - Weekly Count of Complaints:

2007 - Weekly Count of Complaints:

<u>This Week</u>		<u>Year to Date</u>	
51		852	
	56% Increase		1% Increase
37		841	

TOTAL WEEKLY ALLEGATIONS & COMMAND

Total	COMMAND	ALLEGATIONS									Total
CCR	W/E 07/10/08	Arrest	Demeanor	Force	Harassment	Entry	Procedure	Property	Search	Service	Allegations
2	CENTRAL		2				2				4
4	COMMUNICATIONS		2							3	5
7	EASTERN		6	1			4				11
1	EVIDENCE TECH		1								1
1	NARCOTICS						1	1			2
2	NORTHEASTERN			2				1		1	4
9	NORTHWESTERN		4				2	1	1	2	10
7	SOUTHWESTERN	1	3	1			4			3	12
1	TACTICAL SERVICES						1				1
10	Unknown Command		4	4	1	1	5		1	2	18
1	VICE ENFORCEMENT									1	1
1	VIOLENT CRIMES	1					1				2
2	WESTERN		1				2				3
48		2	23	8	1	1	22	3	2	12	74

5. **PRESENTATION/REPORT-CHIEF OF
POLICE**

June 26, 2008

Volume 4, Issue 26

Detroit Police Department

Report to the Board of Police Commissioners



“Building a Safer Detroit Through Community Partnerships”

The Detroit Police Department is committed to uphold its mission to provide a safe environment for our residents and businesses. This effort is not possible without the joint commitment of the community and the Police Department. We appreciate and value the role our citizens have played in helping us to take the guns and drugs off the streets of the city of Detroit.

SPECIAL ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

Community Crime Walk

On June 28th, the Eastern and Northeastern Districts will be hosting a Unity in the Community Crime Walk. The Northeastern District's registration begins at 9:30 a.m., at the Butzel Family Community Center, 7737 Kercheval St. The walk begins at 10:15 a.m. sharp.

The Eastern District's registration begins at 8:00 a.m., at the U-SNAP BAC located at 14901 E. Warren. The crime walk will begin at 9:00 a.m.

Special Points of Interest:

- **Next meeting:**

Thursday, July 3, 2008

@ 3:00 P.M.

**Detroit Police Department
1300 Beaubien St.
Detroit, Michigan 48226**

**Please come and join us to bring
peace to our streets.**

Inside this issue:

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Engaging the Community

ATTENTION

Citizens wishing to make a police report may do so at the District stations in the city of Detroit. Citizens may also utilize the following District Sub-Stations to make reports.

		<u>Location</u>	<u>Hours of Operation</u>	<u>Telephone</u>
Western District	2	1300 Beaubien	24 Hours	596-5100
		2151 E. Jefferson	24 Hours	596-6400
Central District	2	7737 Kercheval	7 a.m. to 3 p.m.	628-2121
		19810 Grand River	10 a.m. to 3 p.m.	935-5322
Domestic Violence	2	13530 Lesure	8 a.m. to 11 p.m.	596-5300
		12000 Livernois	24 Hours	237-2555
		20 Atwater	24 Hours	237-2850

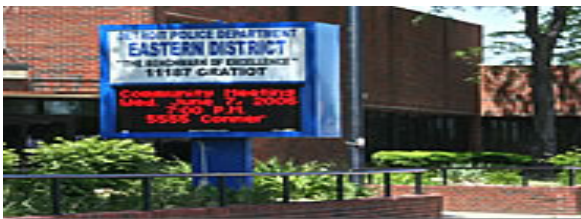
June 26, 2008

Police / Community Intervention

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Eastern District

On June 18th, officers of the Eastern District responded to the 4000 block of Conner on "Glass Heard Breaking/Recorded Breaking & Entering Alarm" run. Subsequent to the officers investigation, a subject was arrested and later charged with *"Attempt Breaking & Entering of a Building,"* and *"Habitual 4th."*



Southwestern District

On June 18th, officers of the Southwestern District responded to the 8000 block of Indiana on a "Person with a Weapon" run. Upon the officers' arrival, they observed a subject armed with a handgun. Due to the officers' quick actions, the subject was arrested and subsequently charged with *"Felonious Assault," "Felon in Possession of a Firearm," "Felony Firearm," "Brandishing a Firearm,"* and *"Habitual 4th."*



Central District

On June 18th, officers of the Central District responded to the 2000 block of Chrysler to investigate persons loitering inside vacant properties. Upon their arrival, officers observed a subject point a handgun at them. The subject was arrested and later charged with *"Felon in Possession," two counts of "Felonious Assault," "Felony Firearm,"* and *"Habitual 3rd."*



Domestic Violence

On June 16th, officers of the Eastern District responded to the 4000 block of Springle on an "Attempt Cutting" run and arrested the subject. Subsequent to the investigation conducted by members of Domestic Violence, the subject was charged with *"Felonious Assault," "Domestic Violence,"* and *"Malicious Destruction of Property."* A knife was confiscated.

Comm. Hampton welcomed the Detroit Police Department. He also introduced AC Godbee.

AC Godbee welcomed the citizens to the Western District. He also introduced the Executive Staff and Command of the Detroit Police Department. He provided brief overviews of the entire department and introduced Commander Debra Fair.

Cmdr. Fair introduced her staff and welcomed everyone to the Western District (WD). She provided a very detailed report of the district's demographics, as well as its community outreach efforts.

She further stated that the Western District is located at 1441 West Seven Mile Road and encompasses 19.7 square miles of Detroit, which includes three (3) colleges, 20 elementary schools, five (5) middle schools and 500 business and churches. She also stated that the population is made up of approximately 171,000 residents.

She then talked about the community initiatives within the District, as well the processes for reducing crime. She stated that the district has an on-site Prosecutor, as well as a Domestic Violence representative to handle the needs of the community.

Comm. Hampton asked to know how canvassing the neighborhoods has changed the culture of citizens not wanting to speak with police personnel.

Cmdr. Fair stated that the district shares information with the citizens when they host "walk and talks". She stated that because the citizens see a police presence, they are becoming more comfortable in terms of relating to the department.

Comm. Holley asked to know if there was any data that indicates or shows a comparison in terms of how the WD is doing with responding to break-ins and other issues.

Comm. Fair stated that the department is always improving towards its efforts of responding to the citizens.

AC Godbee stated that department launched a "community crime view" where citizens can go online and type in a specific address to find information on recent and past crimes that have taken place in that community. He stated that having this kind of information helps the community, churches and businesses become more prepared. He stated that although mid-year numbers are not available, the preliminary numbers show a significant improvement. He also stated that Detroit will be a major success story across the country.

Comm. Holley thanked AC Godbee for providing the information. He then stated for those citizens who do not have computers, that there needs to be a way to roll out this kind of information and that we must continue to work on it.

AC Godbee stated yes sir and we will continue to work on it.

Comm. Holley asked to know how response time is improving within the Western District.

Cmdr. Fair stated that the department always continues to improve. She stated there can be various circumstances whereby response times are affected and that every instance is not the same.

Comm. Holley asked AC Godbee to have remarks on this issue.

AC Godbee stated that it is always very important to keep the community updated and to be transparent. He went on to say that the Chief of Police is always on top of the department to keep this information available and that -her goal is to educate the community in terms of public safety.

He explained that there are five (5) different runs. A priority one (1) run is when someone's life is in imminent danger or when someone is injured. He stated that it is always saddening and devastating when a citizen comes home and their house has been broken into.

He said that kind of call is considered a "report run". However when there is a home-invasion in progress, there is more cause for imminent danger and that call will receive higher priority. He stated that he wanted to make it clear that all calls to 911 are priority and taken very seriously by the department, it's just that a crime involving life will always outweigh a property crime. He said this happens in all states.

He went on to say that the department is working with 911 so that they can begin to inform the citizens on what they can actually expect when they call. He said they will continue to educate the citizens.

Comm. Griffin stated that in his observation there seems to be a problem in the community when a complaint is made with some aspect of police service and that about 90% of the time, reports show that witnesses do not want to come forward. He then asked Cmdr. Fair to elaborate on the department's "walk and talks" and how they promote good relationships with the community.

Cmdr. Fair stated that all command levels have participated in “walk and talks”. She has done them and her partners have done them. She said it really starts with just having a conversation with the citizens. They then get the information and look into the situation. When this type of communication is shared, citizens know there is a police presence in the community.

Comm. Griffin asked to know how often the walk and talks convene.

Cmdr. Fair stated as often as they are needed.

AC Godbee asked Mrs. Carter of the Western District to stand up. He stated that she just graduated from the Citizen’s Police Academy. He said that the Citizen’s Police Academy is a great way for citizens to gain a full and deep understanding of the inner workings of the police department. He stated that the participants completed tours of the 911 call center, as well as participated in ride-a-longs with police personnel. He encouraged everyone to join the Citizen’s Police Academy.

Comm. Hampton stated that the noise and car speakers have gotten out of control and wanted to know what has been done or what is being done to address this issue.

Cmdr. Fair stated that the department has a very diligent traffic enforcement unit and that they study the information from each community to know how to deploy traffic enforcement. She said they always address the issues that come up.

Comm. Hampton asked to know is there a number for citizens to call.

Cmdr. Fair stated that the number to call the Western District is (313) 596-1201.

Comm. Hampton thanked Cmdr. Fair for a very thorough presentation. He then introduced Western District Community Relations Council President, Don Johnson.

Don Johnson welcomed the citizens once again to the Western District. He introduced his staff of the Western District Community Relations Council and said that they do a fine job of making things work. He went on to say that he wanted to help the citizens make the process work and that by explaining the differences between 211, 311 and 911 would help. He stated that 211 is a United Way effort that assists citizens in obtaining food, clothing and shelter, rent and other familial or social needs. He then stated that 311 handled city concerns such as dead animals or fallen trees and that 311 also served as a direct link to all city departments including Detroit City Council and the Mayor’s Office.

He said that 911 is for assisting people with immediate safety-related issues. He further stated that he is trying to educate the community on when and how to use the numbers correctly so that the citizens can get the responses that they are looking for. He wanted to let the citizens know to be descriptive when calling the police and to provide as much information as possible and said that this will help them in addressing the problem.

Don Johnson also urged the citizens to use the Dexter/Elmhurst Community Center and acknowledged the center's Board members. He said the Board members went above and beyond the call of duty to keep the center open and that they did not need to lose another center in Detroit. He said the center needs volunteers and grant writers so that they can bring more programs to that area.

He thanked the Commissioners and the citizens for allowing him to have this time.

Comm. Hampton asked Don Johnson when their meetings are held.

Don Johnson stated that the Western District Community Relations Council meets every 1st Thursday of each month at the district located at 1441 West Seven Mile Road in Detroit.

Comm. Hampton said thank you.

Don Johnson stated you're welcome sir.

6. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no standing committee reports.

7. NEW BUSINESS

There was a resolution for Dawn's Dollar Place II.

MOTION: **Comm. Holley** made the motion to accept the Resolution.

SECOND: **Comm. Griffin** seconded the motion.

VOTE: All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR FOR THE TERM JULY 1, 2007 TO JUNE 30, 2008.

Nomination of Comm. Jim Holley as Chairperson of Board of Police Commissioners.

MOTION: Comm. Hampton made the motion to have Comm. Holley as Chair.

SECOND: Comm. Griffin seconded the motion.

VOTE: All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

Nomination of Comm. Ronald L. Griffin as Vice-Chairperson of Board of Police Commissioners.

MOTION: Comm. Holley made the motion to have Comm. Griffin as Vice Chair.

SECOND: Comm. Hampton seconded the motion.

VOTE: All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

8. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

9. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday, July 17, 2008
Police Headquarters
1300 Beaubien, Rm. 328-A
Detroit, MI 48226

10. ORAL COMMUNICATION FROM THE AUDIENCE

S. Hines stated that she has very serious concerns with police brutality. She stated that it is not getting any better.

Comm. Holley stated that the Board will meet with the Detroit Coalition Against Police Brutality to work these issues out. He stated that the Board is here to help and that they are not sitting on their hands on issues that concern the community and police shootings.

Candy (who refused to give her last name) very angrily and rudely stated that she had some concerns about property damage to her car. She stated that she has not gotten a response from last year. There are older people who do not have a way to get to the meetings. Taxes are going up and quality of life is going down.

Comm. Hampton stated that cooperation is a two-way street and that citizens must help us to help them. We must respect each other. The Commission can not be blamed for taxes and let's always work for solutions. He stated let's work together and not against each other.

R. Smith stated that this is a not a good time for his family. He stated that his brother Tommy Staples, Jr. was killed by a Detroit Police Officer and he wants to know who is policing the police. He said that citizens do not want to speak to the officers because they are not feeling safe.

He said that the corrupt officers will target the citizens. He states that there must be something that can be done to end this. He said that his mother is heart broken over losing her son. He said that there are cops out there with guns and badges who have killed people and they seem to get away with it. His sister read a poem on behalf of the family. Ronnie Smith further stated that they would like to put their faith in the police department and hoped that their participation in today's meeting will not be in vain. He thanked the department for their time.

Comm. Hampton stated on behalf of the Commissioners that their hearts go out to the family. He stated that a life is very important and asked them to keep the faith so that justice can prevail.

Agent C. Johnson stated she is a citizen, tax payer and a Probation Officer with the Department of Corrections. She had good things to say about the members of the Western District Police Department. She said that if anyone has community service needs to please call her office. She stated she had plenty of people needing to fill community service hours, and vowed to check all business for legitimacy. Her number is 313-927-2234.

Mr. Leroy stated that he has concerns for his community and wanted to request help from the department. He stated that the Council was organized in 1961 and that he is one of the first members. He stated once gain, they need help in the community.

S. Erkhart says that her community has been shooting some type of devices at the children. They can't get anyone to come over and look at it because no one is dead. She went outside to pick up some shells to bring to the meeting tonight. She is not getting any police response. She says the police officers come and harass her children so bad until she had to file a complaint.

Comm. Holley asked her if she lives in the community.

S. Erkhart stated yes.

Comm. Holley put someone in touch with her. Officer Chuneu was assigned to address her issue on the spot.

Comm. Griffin stated that the Board needs to begin closing the loops meaning that when someone has a concern, that we need to bring them back to see the status of their issues. He said that we need to track who the citizen is being assigned to and that other wise, we would continue to rotate. He asked if the citizens can come back to the Board so that they will know that the issue has been addressed.

Don Johnson said that the Community Relations Officers take complaints at all of their meetings. He says that the citizens can let them know if their complaints are not being responded to, and that they can come back to them and things will get done.

T. Morris said that she has been walking the streets regarding the death of Tommy Staples, Jr. She has walked about four (4) miles and that there is a presence of police terror. This is the feedback she gets from the citizens and that they are afraid to come forward. So if the powers that be can ask the officers to be professional, then citizens will be more apt to speak up. Please ask them to be respectful.

R. Ervin said that she and her daughter realized that since last summer there seems to be some kind of gunfire code. She notices that they fire about five times and always about the same time of night. They are coding one another with gun fire. She also has a terrible problem with noise from the cars. She read a portion of the City Ordinance against noise. The noise is unbearable, so much so until when she calls 911, the operator can not hear her. If there is more of a police presence, they will stop.

AC Godbee said that it is important to speak up about issues with the police. He thanked the citizens for coming forward. He wants the citizens to be completely assured that the department hears them. He said that we all live, eat, play and work here. He really wants the citizens to understand that they care and that they will seek to mitigate the situation. He said that the Command Staff hears and understands their passion and their frustration. The things that concern the citizens, concern and bothers the police as well. He asked the community to embrace the police and work with us. The dynamism of the City of Detroit is awesome. You know your police officers. We live with you. When we take our suits off, we are you. We have families too. Let's be productive and work together.

A. Stokes thanked AC Godbee for his heart-felt comments. He said that it is important to work together. When the people come together as a community, then so much can be accomplished. We need to train the citizens on how to work amongst themselves. He suggested that citizens share information because sometimes some of the districts are having the same kinds of problems. If each district would share how they solve problems, then perhaps other districts could use the same methods. He said that we need to pray more. We have taken God out of a lot of things and until we bring Him back, we will see what we are seeing. The City is in trouble. We know this, and it will take a village to bring the City of Detroit back to where it is supposed to be.

F. Moss asked what can be done about people stripping the homes in the neighborhoods which ultimately makes the property value go down. She says often times when you call the police, they do not come, but as of late, she acknowledged and wanted to give credit. She stated that she has noticed an increased police presence. She thanked the department for that.

R. Scott asked to know why the undercover cars do not have in-car camera videos. Why are they not held to the same standards of the marked-vehicles.

Comm. Holley asked does the Coalition of Police Brutality promote the process of what happens from the investigative standpoint when a family member has suffered a loss or tragedy.

R. Scott said yes they do explain what is happening. He says that he still thinks there is a great lack of communication between the police and citizens.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

DANTE' L. GOSS
Executive Director
Board of Police Commissioners

DLG/